

support of my colleagues for that funding, we have had some key successes. But this is simply no longer a tenable course of action.

Passage of the 9/11 Health and Compensation Act would mark an end to this unpredictable approach and ensure that a consistent source of funding is available to monitor, and if necessary, treat, the thousands of first responders, community members, and others already affected by WTC-related illnesses as well as those who are most likely to become sick in the future. And it would make sure that no matter where an affected individual were to live in the future, he or she could get care. Building on the expertise of the existing Centers of Excellence, the bill would fill key gaps in how we are currently providing treatment and monitoring. And finally, this legislation would provide an opportunity for compensation for economic damages and losses by reopening the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund.

On this anniversary of one of the most devastating days in our national consciousness, I thank members of Congress and the American people for coming to our aid after September 11th and in the years that followed. And once again, I implore you to pass the 9/11 Health and Compensation Act.

INTRODUCTION OF NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH RESOLUTION

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the National Preparedness Month Resolution, which recognizes that the month of September is designated as National Preparedness Month. This measure applauds the public servants at Department of Homeland Security for their outstanding contributions to our Nation's homeland security and encourages citizens around the world to continue to prepare themselves and their families for acts of terrorism, natural disasters and other emergencies.

It has been 7 years since the horrific terrorist attacks against the United States and its people on September 11, 2001. Our Nation continues to heal from the terrible losses that we suffered and our Government remains vigilant against those who attacked us.

Yet, while our Nation is fortunate that law enforcement agents and emergency response providers have successfully worked hard to prevent any further attacks, we are still vulnerable. We know that precious lives and critical infrastructure continue to be targeted across the world as evidenced by various suicide bombings in recent years. Terrorism remains prevalent and we must always be prepared both at home and abroad.

I am pleased to have so many members serving as cosponsors to this bill. As we all know, preparedness is not a partisan matter—terrorists do not select their victims by political party. Therefore, we must all support the message that families be prepared for emergencies should they occur.

If a disaster—whether large or small—occurs in a community, local responders and disaster-relief organizations will be there to help, but citizens need to be ready as well. That is why the Department of Homeland Security has

designated the month of September each year as National Preparedness Month. The Department and its key stakeholders will spend the month promoting the importance of being prepared and, most importantly, how to be prepared in our communities across the country. As we all know, when individual citizens, families and communities are prepared, the fear, anxiety, and loss that accompany disasters is substantially minimized.

It is imperative that citizens know what to do in the event of an emergency and be ready either to shelter in place or to evacuate their homes. People must be ready to care for their basic needs for a minimum of 72 hours should they be displaced for a period of time.

And as our Nation continues to glean lessons from catastrophic events such as the September 11th terrorist attacks and Hurricane Katrina, the Federal Government must ensure that preparedness efforts help our Nation's most vulnerable populations. Recent wildfires, floods, hurricanes and tornadoes have given us the opportunity to observe whether those lessons have since been corrected.

In closing, let me say that I applaud the hard work and dedication of the public servants within the Department of Homeland Security in their effort to protect our Nation. Further, I encourage our citizens to make sure their families are vigilant, alert, and prepared for emergencies, and recommend visiting the Web site www.ready.gov, which might greatly assist them in this process. I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

CONGRATULATING THE MICHIGAN COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND, FLINT OFFICE

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Michigan Commission for the Blind, Flint Office for celebrating 30 years of service to the blind and visually impaired. The office will gather to commemorate this anniversary at a party on October 30th in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

The Michigan Commission for the Blind was created by Public Act 260 of 1978. The Commission operates its central office in Lansing, 8 field offices and a training center in Kalamazoo. As one of the field offices, the Flint Office provides service to clients throughout the Flint and Thumb areas of Michigan.

In carrying out their mission, the Michigan Commission for the Blind provides in-home services, mini-adjustment seminars, business services for employers, a vocational rehabilitation program, independent living for seniors over the age of 55, deafblind services, youth services and the business enterprise program. Their motto is "Changing Lives, Changing Attitudes" and their goals are for the blind and visually impaired to lead productive, independent lives as well as educating the general population about the capabilities of the blind.

The Flint Office plays an integral part in providing service and education to the community. For the past 30 years the 7 person staff has been committed to promoting the welfare

and ability of the visually impaired so they can live and function in our society and in the workplace.

Madam Speaker, I am glad to have the opportunity to congratulate the employees, volunteers and clients of the Michigan Commission for the Blind, Flint Office as they celebrate 30 years of assistance to the blind and visually impaired of mid-Michigan. May they continue their service for many, many years to come.

RECOGNIZING MR. NORMAN L. MEBANE, JR.

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, Mr. Norman L. Mebane Jr., was born in Merry Hill, North Carolina. He graduated from high school in Bertie County before earning an associate's degree from Pitt Community College. After 2 years of honorable service in the U.S. Army, Mr. Mebane returned home and worked at the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company.

He attended Thomas Nelson Community College, and then earned a bachelor of science degree from St. Augustine's College where he was also inducted into Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society and received special recognition as a Presidential Scholar.

Mr. Mebane then worked as a crop and livestock farmer before moving on to the trucking business. He founded N.L. Mebane Trucking Company, Inc. and later founded Mebane Rural Initiative Institute, Inc. and Mebane Investment Properties LLC. His entrepreneurial successes were recognized by North Carolina Department of Transportation with the Minority Business Enterprise Award of the Year.

Mr. Mebane currently serves on the RBC Centura Bank Region II Advisory Board and the Economic Development Council, and he previously served as part of the Historical Hope Foundation, Transportation Development Council, North Carolina Governor's Conference on Small Business and the North Carolina Department of Transportation's Minority Business Expansion Council. Mr. Mebane also serves as a board trustee for Elizabeth City State University and Martin County Community College.

It is certainly fitting that Elizabeth City State University would honor Mr. Mebane because he fully understands the importance of community involvement and he truly dedicates himself to serving others. He is an outstanding member of our community who deserves our highest thanks and praise.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this great North Carolinian and American, Mr. Norman L. Mebane, Jr.

MOVING FORWARD FROM 9/11

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, America must move from the errant, retributive justice